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ACTION EUR-12

INFO	OCT-00	COPY-01	ADS-00	INR-10	SS-10	CIAE-00	DODE-00
	H-01	IO-15	NSC-01	ARA-16	NSAE-00	HA-08	L-03
	TRSE-00	PM-08	PA-01	SAL-01	USIE-00	SP-02	SNP-01
	PRS-01	/091 W					

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P 051759Z MAY 83
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8548
INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
EC COLLECTIVE
AMEMBASSY MADRID

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044,
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/TPS
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director
(X) Release () Exclse () Deny
Exemption(s):

Declassify: () In Part (X) In Full
() Classify as () Extend as () Downgrade to
Date Declassify on Reason

[REDACTED] ROME 10570

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: SHUM, PREL, AR, IT
SUBJECT: ITALY-ARGENTINA DISPUTE OVER DESAPARECIDOS
-- WIDENS

REF: BUENOS AIRES 002954

1. [REDACTED]-ENTIRE TEXT).

2. SUMMARY: THE DISPUTE BETWEEN ARGENTINA AND ITALY
OVER MISSING PERSONS IN ARGENTINA WIDENED AND BECAME
MORE OFFICIAL YESTERDAY, MAY 4. THE ITALIAN GOVERN-
MENT HAS ESPOUSED PRESIDENT PERTINI'S PERSONAL PRO-
TEST AND ARGENTINA HAS REACTED BY RECALLING ITS
AMBASSADOR TO ROME. END SUMMARY.

3. YESTERDAY THE ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR DELIVERED A
NOTE OF PROTEST TO THE MFA COMPLAINING OF PRESIDENT
PERTINI'S LACK OF SERENITY IN ADDRESSING THE ISSUE
OF MISSING PERSONS IN ARGENTINA AND ACCUSING HIM
OF INTERVENING IN ARGENTINE INTERNAL AFFAIRS (REFTEL).

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IN ANSWER, PERTINI FIRED OFF A PERSONAL LETTER TO
PRESIDENT BIGNONE. IN IT, PERTINI REASSERTED HIS

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INDIGNATION: "I PROTESTED AND I PROTEST IN THE NAME OF HUMAN AND CIVIL RIGHTS." HE FURTHER ASSERTED THAT HE HAD EVERY RIGHT TO PROTEST SINCE SOME 300 ITALIAN CITIZENS ARE ALLEGED TO BE AMONG THE ARGENTINE "DESAPARECIDOS".

4. THE MFA ALSO REACTED TO THE TERMS OF THE ARGENTINE NOTE BY CALLING IN THE ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR THE EVENING OF MAY 4 AND ESPOUSING PERTINI'S PROTEST, ALTHOUGH IN FAR MORE DIPLOMATIC LANGUAGE. THE ARGENTINE REACTION WAS TO RECALL ITS AMBASSADOR FOR CONSULTATIONS.

5. COMMENT: MFA OFFICERS WERE CONCERNED YESTERDAY THAT PERTINI MIGHT, BY HIS TEMPESTUOUS ATTITUDE, DAMAGE OTHER ITALIAN INTERESTS IN ARGENTINA. THE DISPUTE DID PROGRESS FROM A PERSONAL PROTEST TO A POLITICAL AND OFFICIAL ISSUE BETWEEN THE TWO STATES. IT ALSO LED THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT TO SOUND OUT THE ATTITUDES AND POSSIBLE ACTIONS OF OTHER EC STATES ON THE MISSING PERSONS ISSUE. SOME POLITICIANS ALSO COMMENTED TO MEMBERS THAT THEY WONDERED WHETHER PERTINI WAS NOT CARRYING HIS INDIGNATION TOO FAR. HOWEVER, PERTINI'S ATTITUDE EVOKED CONSIDERABLE PUBLIC AND MEDIA SUPPORT. IF PERTINI WAS NOT PRUDENT, HE WAS POLITIC, AND THE GOVERNMENT HAS SO FAR BACKED HIM UP.

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INN

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